Magistrate's Court. It seems to me that the only thing that is necessary is the re-adjustment of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts in that part of the country. Anyhow, before I decide the question one way or the other, I will visit your place and consider the question.

46. Establishment of a First Class Magistrate's Court at Parur.

MR. K. R. VENKITESWARA AIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Parur*) indicated the desirability of abolishing Bench Magistrates' Courts in the several places, and said that the evil effects which the abolition of the stipendiary Magistrate's Court at Parur had on the peace and prosperity of the people were many. Parur occupied a unique position in relation to other taluks of the State. It was far away from the Capital and practically isolated from the rest of the State by the intervention of the Cochin territory. It was a Mahomedan centre and heinous crimes were not infrequent. The nearest Magistrate's Court was at Alwaye, more than 10 miles away from Parur, and people had to go there to lodge complaints. During the rainy season, communication between Parur and Alwaye was completely cut off for at least two months. People therefore very often took the law into their own hands, thereby creating trouble for the general public. The presence of a First Class Magistrate was therefore a necessity. Again, Parur was the only taluk with a District Court but no Magistrate's Court. A First Class Magistrate's Court was in existence in the taluk for a period of 4 or 5 years but was abolished for some unknown reason. The member therefore pressed for the opening of a First Class Magistrate's Court at Parur. If that could not be done, he prayed, in the alternative, that the local Tahsildar be invested with First Class Magisterial powers.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. K. R. Venkitesvara Aiyar, will it suit you if the First Class Magistrate's Court at Perumbavur is transferred to Alwaye?

MEMBER: There is the Periyar river and I submit that during flood season for at least two months it is practically difficult to cross it.

DEWAN: In olden days *valloms* used to serve. How often were you completly shut off last year?

MEMBER: Two or three times,

DEWAN: How many weeks each time?

MEMBER: Two to three weeks.

DEWAN: According to my information, you failed to get Anchal for two or three days.

MEMBER: In 1099,—

DEWAN: That was under abnormal conditions in 1099.

MEMBER: This is a frontier taluk.

DEWAN: You think that wrong-doers will run away to the other side?

However, I hope very shortly to issue orders to transfer the First Class Magistrate's Court at Perumbavur to Alwaye and that will make matters easier for you.

47. Licensing of Conveyancers.

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the same subject was first brought to the notice of the Government 10 years ago and on two other subsequent occasions but no action had yet been taken on the same. Besides the reasons then mentioned in support of his prayer for appointing qualified conveyancers, there was yet another reason for repeating the same at this session *viz.*, the numerous partitions effected as a result of the Nayar and Ezhava Regulations. As many as 33,750 partition deeds were registered in a single year and 5 additional Sub-Registrars' offices had to be newly opened. According to the figures in the *Administration Report*, the total value of property partitioned during the year 1101 was 3½ crores of rupees. This, the member said, was much below the real value inasmuch as the parties reduced the consideration amounts in the deeds with a view to evade payment of heavy stamp duty and registration fees. More than ten per cent. of the persons who

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

had executed those documents could not have utilised the services of qualified lawyers for drawing them up. The remaining ninety per cent. had their documents drawn up by the so-called "document writers." Many of them had little or no educational qualifications. They were, however, clever in making mischief by inserting ambiguous phrases in the documents and those who utilised their services were victims to their tricks.

In view to remedy this state of affairs, the member suggested that an examination be instituted with the object of testing the fitness of document writers. The subjects for the examination should comprise the Registration Regulation, the Stamp Regulation, the Transfer of Property Act and other allied subjects. It should be ruled that only those who passed the examination should draw up conveyances. Unnecessary litigation arising from inaccurate or incomplete documents could be prevented thereby. It would also solve the problem of unemployment to some extent. According to the member, there was scope for 700 persons at the rate of 500 documents each per annum.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kunjuraman, on two previous occasions this question came up before the Assembly and reply was given straight away that the matter of licensing document writers could not be taken up for immediate consideration. However, there must be something in the complaint. Judging from the fact that the subject has been presented by you to-day and with such earnestness, I am going to make a departure from the last two occasions. I am going to consult judicial officers and District Magistrates and any other authorities who may be able to give valuable advice on the subject, to see whether something could be done in the direction you indicate.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-40 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Friday, the 25th February, 1927.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly